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Title:

Speech at the opening of the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation (South Australian Science Center) Institute Building, Adelaide

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SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE IAN CLUNIES ROSS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
(SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE CENTER) INSTITUTE BUILDING, ADELAIDE,
BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, DON DUNSTAN.

1st March, 1971.

SIR IAN,

MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUE(S),

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION,

(LADIES AND) GENTLEMEN:

I AM VERY GLAD TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TODAY AT THE OPENING OF THE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE IAN CLUNIES ROSS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

ALTHOUGH THE FOUNDATION IS ONLY A LITTLE OVER TWO YEARS OLD, ITS
PRESTIGE AND IMPORTANCE IN AUSTRALIA HAS ALREADY BEEN FIRMLY AND
LASTINGLY ESTABLISHED. AND THIS IS BOTH NATURAL AND ESSENTIAL.

IT IS A GROSS CLICHE TO SAY THAT WE LIVE IN TIMES OF RADICAL
CHANGE. BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE.

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AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE CHANGES WHICH DEVELOPING NATIONS SUCH
AS AUSTRALIA ARE UNDERGOING NOW AS A RESULT OF THE MASSIVE EXPONENTIAL
EXPANSION IN KNOWLEDGE, SCHOLARSHIP, AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW,
HAVE CREATED AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR SUCH PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES AS THE FOUNDATION PROVIDES.

IT IS, I BELIEVE, IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THIS
DEMAND. BASICALLY IT HAS ARISEN IN PROFESSIONS IN WHICH CHANGE
AND DEVELOPMENT HAS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR MEMBERS TO COMMUNICATE
WITH EACH OTHER IN WHAT ARE CALLED HORIZONTAL TERMS. (I HASTEN
TO ADD THAT THIS DOESN'T MEAN ON THEIR BACKS - IT MEANS
SIMPLY COMMUNICATING WITHOUT HAVING TO CLAMBER UP AND DOWN THE
BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEMS WHICH TEND TO PROLIFERATE WHEREVER THERE
IS A COMPLEX JOB TO BE DONE.)

ONE OF THE MAIN AIMS OF THE IAN CLUNIES ROSS FOUNDATION IS THUS TO FACILITATE THIS HIGH LEVEL OF INTER-DISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION ON BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEVELS. AND FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOUNDATION'S BRANCH HERE AND THIS ASPECT OF ITS FUNCTION IS MOST SIGNIFICANT.

THE STATE'S PRESENT INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL BASE IS OF A KIND THAT WILL INCREASINGLY FEEL THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF CHANGE. IN FACT, IN TERMS OF TECHNIQUES, OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE IS LIKELY TO BE COMPLETELY CHANGED WITHIN TWO DECADES. THIS CAN BE PREDICTED PARTICULARLY FOR OUR LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, WHICH WILL IN THAT TIME BE SUBJECT TO MASSIVE REORGANISATION AT BOTH THE HUMAN AND TECHNICAL LEVELS.

THE SKILLS NEEDED TO RUN THE COMPLEX SOCIAL MACHINERY OF THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO MAKE MASSIVE DEMANDS ON THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE AND ON ITS COMPONENT ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS ITS EDUCATION SYSTEM. AND THESE DEMANDS CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE. THE PROBLEM OF ADULT RE-EDUCATION WILL BE ONLY ONE AREA OF CONCERN.

THE DANGER TO A SOCIETY FACING SUCH UNLIMITED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IS ENORMOUS. ONE CAN, FOR INSTANCE, ASK THE GENERAL QUESTION: WILL THE SOCIETY'S LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL MODES BE ABLE TO KEEP UP AND CONTROL THE RATE AND DIRECTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE? OR, ALTERNATIVELY, WILL THE GREAT MASS OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE COMPREHENSION OF THE NEW FORCES AT WORK IN THEIR COMMUNITY? THESE QUESTIONS ARE BEING RAISED NOT BECAUSE THE BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC SCHOLARSHIP ARE NOT ENORMOUS, BUT BECAUSE WISDOM, WISE GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY ARE NOT FORMED IN TEST TUBES.

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IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, IN ADDITION TO OUR LABOUR INTENSIVE SKILL INDUSTRIES, WE HAVE PRO RATA A HIGH LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY IN THE STATE. THERE IS, FOR INSTANCE, THE WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT AT SALISBURY, TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, THE DEVELOPING MINERAL SCIENCES CENTER, THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE, WAITE INSTITUTE, ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND THE VARIOUS BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE C.S.I.R.O. IN THE LABORATORIES, CLASSROOMS AND OFFICES OF THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS A NEW FUTURE FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS BEING CREATED. THEREFORE, IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC DEBATE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN THIS AS IN ALL OTHER AUSTRALIAN STATES.

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OUR SOCIETY AS A WHOLE BENEFITS FROM THE PROCESS. AND SO IT IS TO THIS TASK THAT THE FOUNDATION IS APPLYING ITSELF. THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE FOUNDATION WILL, I BELIEVE, GROW IN BOTH FUNCTION AND IMPORTANCE, PROVIDING A CENTER IN WHICH THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS OF DEBATE, EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION AS EXIST ALREADY IN THE FOUNDATION'S NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS HAVE A LASTING EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE AND APPLICATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. I AM PLEASED TO THEREFORE DECLARE THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE IAN CLUNIES ROSS FOUNDATION OPEN.
